

Message Text

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21

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCCT-01 USSS-00 OMB-01 SIL-01 LAB-04

EB-07 AID-05 SY-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /073 W
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O 202230Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 0414

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 1966

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, AR

SUBJECT: ANNOUNCED "PLOT" APPEARS TO BE A SMOKESCREEN

REF: BA-1958

1. DEVELOPMENTS OVER PAST FEW HOURS SUGGEST THAT URGENT CABINET MEETING HAD TO DO WITH POLITICAL MANEUVER RATHER THAN THE SORT OF CRISIS WHICH WOULD HAVE WARRANTED A FLASH MESSAGE. EMBASSY THEREFORE REGRETS THAT REFTEL WAS SENT FLASH.
2. EMBASSY HAS CANVASSED SOURCES RE DEVELOPMENTS REPORTED REFTEL. ALL HAVE INDICATED THAT WHILE SECURITY FORCES ARE CARRYING OUT ACTIONS INDICATED BY ROCAMORA IN RESPONSE TO ANNOUNCED "PLOT", LATTER IS IN FACT MORE OF A SMOKESCREEN AND ROCAMORA'S ANNOUNCEMENT IS INTENDED TO COVER INTENSE POLITICAL MANEUVERING AT HIGHEST LEVELS OF GOA.
3. ONE SENIOR FREJULI SENATOR CONTACTED BY PHONE SAID THAT ACTION WAS A "SMOKESCREEN" THAT HAD OTHER OBJECTIVES. HOWEVER, HE WAS UNWILLING TO DISCUSS MATTER FURTHER OVER PHONE AND SAID HE COULD NOT SEE EMBOFF UNTIL TOMORROW.

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4. WELL-CONNECTED POLITICAL COLUMNISTS HAVE ALSO STATED BELIEF

THAT ANNOUNCEMENT REPRESENTS POLITICAL MANEUVER MORE THAN A STRAIGHT ANTI-TERRORIST ACTION. ALL REPORT THAT ALL INFORMATION BEING GIVEN OUT "MUST" COME FROM THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR, AN INDICATION THAT TODAY'S EVENTS ARE ROCAMORA'S SHOW. WHILE MOST CONTINUE TO SPECULATE THAT LORENZO MIGUEL AND LOPEZ REGA WOULD BE LIKLIEST TARGETS OF A ROCAMORA MOVE, NONE COULD SUPPORT THEORIES WITH HARD EVIDENCE.

5. LATE AFTERNOON RADIO NEWSCASTS REPORT THAT MRS. PERON HAS MET WITH ROCAMORA, LASTIRI, AND LORENZO MIGUEL. STORIES ON RADIO SAID TOPIC DISCUSSED WAS RECENT LABOR DEMAND FOR GREATER SHARE OF POLITICAL PIE. OBSERVERS HERE DISCOUNT POSSIBILITY THAT MEETING IS FOCUSING ON SO LIMITED A TOPIC. FACT THAT LOPEZ REGA'S NAME NOT LISTED AMONG PARTICIPANTS IS INTERESTING. EMBASSY NOW TRYING TO DETERMINE IF HE WAS PRESENT. HIS ABSENCE AT KEY MEETING WOULD OF COURSE SET RUMOR MILL GRINDING.

6. DEPISTE HIGH LEVEL OF POLITICAL ACTIVITY AND SECURITY FORCES ACTION IN INDUSTRIAL AREAS NORTH OF CITY, BUENOS AIRES REMAINS CALM AND WORKDAY ADTIVITIES CONTINUE AS USUAL.

7. IN SUM, SOMETHING IS GOING ON. GIVEN THAT MANEUVERING IS PROBABLY RESTRICTED TO A VERY FEW AT THE TOP AND THAT THEY ARE NOT LIKELY TO OPEN UP IMMEDIATELY, IT MAY BE DAY OR MORE BEFORE EVENTS ARE CLARIFIED.

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